GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3110
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Financial Assistance for International Geeta Festival
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is trying to develop world famous Kurukshetra of Haryana as Geeta Dham as a global tourism centre under Prasad Scheme, Kurukshetra;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Krishna devotees from every corner of the country and from other countries of the world as well visit Vrindavan and Dwarika, similarly lakhs of people visit Geeta Knowledge Place (Gita Gyan Sthali) Kurukshetra every year;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to develop Geeta Dham;
(e) whether International Geeta Festival has been fixed to be organised in Kurukshetra from 1st December to 10th December; and
(f) if so, the contribution supposed to be made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism has launched the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme to develop and beautify pilgrimage sites/cities in the country. Under the scheme the projects are undertaken for development at identified sites. Kurukshetra has not been identified as a site/city for development under PRASAD Scheme. However, Kurukshetra has been identified as a destination for development under Krishna Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

(c) & (d): Large number of pilgrims/tourists visits Krishna sites in the country including Dwarka, Vrindavan, Kurukshetra every year. For development of Kurukshetra the Ministry has sanctioned a project "Development of Tourism infrastructures at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra, Haryana" for Rs.97.35 crore during the year 2016-17.The sites covered for development under the project includes Braham Sarover, Jyotisar, Narkatari, Sanhit Sarover & Kurukshetra City.

(e) & (f): The Geeta Jayanti Utsava is scheduled to be held in Kurukshetra, Haryana from 6th to 10th December, 2016. No Central Financial assistance has been sanctioned for the said project.

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